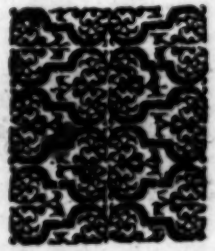
A Fearefull Example.

Shewed vpon a periured Person.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

Who on the 14, of this preſent *moneth of May being condemned for periury,* in the honourable Court of Starre Chamber: did there deſperatly ſtabbe himſelfe.

Containing a notable warning to all common Baylors.



AT LONDON
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A

Fearefull Example.

Shewed for a perfect

Pattern.

Who on the 13. of this present

moneth of May, being condemned for perfury,

in the honourable Court of Starre Chamber:

did there deliberatly stabbe

himselfe.

Containing a notable warning to all

common Swyfers.

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Nelson.

¶ The fearefull example of God shewed on a perished Person, who at the Starre Chamber receiuing sentence in that case pro-uided: dispeately stabbed himselfe on Friday being the 14. of May.

1591.

WHereunto should I liken this generation? Why whereunto should I liken this generation, but vnto that generation in our Sauiours time vpon the earth, whome he (the onely wiſdome) compareth vnto Children playing in the streets, to whom their fellowes crye, We haue piped vnto you, and you haue not daunced: we haue mourned vnto you, and ye haue not wept: yea to this generation, we may againe say, as he to that: Woe be to thee hard harted people, woe be to thee obdurat nation, for if the wonders had been shown in Tire and Sidon which haue beene showen in thee, they would long since haue repented in sackecloth and ashes. How many of our fellowes, or rather fathers whome we ought to follow, haue cheerefully sung forth the eternall rest of

their soules, by the witnes of their vpright consciences, hauing liu'd christianly and left ioyfullye this Tabernacle: whose remouing from vs but few regarde, verifying the wiseman's words. The righteous dyeth, and no man considereth in his hart it is to lamentable to remember. How many againe haue in their miserable examples mourned vnto vs: some perishing (bewitcht through Poperie) by treasons, poison of their owne preparations, hauing (through ꝑ omnipotencie of him that shadowes his annointed) the edge of their owne Swords turned to their own throats: others for barbarous murders and impious fellonies: other through subbornations, forgeries, periuries, brought to infamous, yet deserued reproches: so that numberlesse is the number of these miserable mourners, whose example can nothing terrifie this peruerse age: The iudgements of God before time hath bene stretched largelye out against the rabble of the wicked, and against periurie, he hath in all ages, and at this day showen deserued vengeance.

For vpon Friday being the 14. of May, in this case he affoorded a manifest example at the Starre Chamber, on a desperate periured person, named Iohn Pitcher, who being with his consort found guilty of periurye, was adiudged to lose his eares vpon the Pillories at Westminster and London.

For

For the circumstance, that the worlde maye note their merite, it was thus: A prisoner arested for a lawfull debt, the action being two thousand markes, he was driuen to produce especiall bayle, that is, two men of good account: this Pitcher and his companion, attired the one Gentleman like, the other Merchant like: being hired to baile the prisoner, turned their names and places of their dwelling: this Pitcher calling himselfe Walter Downes, deposed that he was ten pounds in the M. Bookes, and of good worship in his Country: the Gentleman indeed whose name he challenged, being well knowne to be of no lesse estate: hereby they baile the prisoner, defeate the Creditor, themselues beeing of no esteeme: and leauing a copper Chaine for one of golde, they embaced likewise the Wiuell for God: yet he that punisheth such dissemblers, brought forth these two counterfeites, who appearing before the right honourable the Lord Chauncellor, the Lord Archbishop his grace of Canterburye, the two Lord cheefe Iustices, and the rest of that Court, had sentence as is aforesaide: and commaundement was giuen to the warden of the Fleete, forthwith to see the execution done: but as they were carrying from the Starre Chamber, euen hard at the doore this desperate Pitcher drew out his knife, and giuing himself two wounds in the brest, fell downe: where-

vpon the Lord Chauncellor and the rest gracious-ly commaunded his wounds should be searched, which he obstinately refused: therefore their honors appointed a diuine to be sent him for his soules comfort, and that he should be forcibly held while his wounds were searched for his bodies health. O detestable charitie. O honourable and christian pitie.

But beholde the iust iudgement of God vpon this party, the better to make his odious office seene manifest & so to be apparent to many others, he made his owne conscience witnes against him, that he was worthy of death, when with his owne hands he attempted to strike the fatall strokes that might suddenly haue shortned his owne life: and this he chose rather to perfourme by the perswasion of his owne conscience, then to sustaine the shame which the Lawe hath iustly awarded for so detestable an office. And yet contrarye to the expectation of himselfe or those that were eye witnesses of this fearfull example, his wounds being afterward searched and dressed, were not found deadly but recouerable, so that he is now reasonably amended, and remaineth close prisoner in the Fleete with his other companion, vntil such time as it shal please her Maiesties most honourable Counsell to commaund execution according to their former iudgements. Which is appointed to be doone forthwith.

Now

Now if this mournefull act might moue the reſt of this generation, who ſell the innocent for ſiluer, and the righteous for a reward: conuerting iuſtice into wormewood, and iudgement into gall: happy were they that brought theſe euill ones to light, and happy this fearfull example, for all Petyfoggers, Suborners, Knights of the Poſts, and all the vncleane kennell of vnchriſtened periurers, who by ſwearing and forſwearing, bragging and outecountenancing, abuſe the Iuſtices, oppreſſe their poore Clients, and for a little peece of Siluer like Iudas, ſinne in betraying the innocent, ſinne in betraying of their owne ſoules, ſinne in deſpairing of Gods grace, or preſuming of his goodnes, or cõtemning his iudgements: whoſe hart (O Lord) conuert, or according to thy promiſe, teare them as a hungrye Lyon dooth his praye: for they ſhame not to ſaye, thou art like them becauſe of thy Long ſuffering. Amen Lord Ieſu come quickly.

FINIS.